

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-03 CA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9056
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27649

FRANKFURT FOR INS

FOR D/HA DAS SIEVERTS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF FR KS VN
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN KOREA (MIRANDA CASE)

REF: (A) SEOUL 7890; (B) STATE 15273; (C) STATE 190638;
(D) PARIS 26831

1. THE QUAI HAS INFORMED US THAT, CONTRARY TO THE
IMPLICATIONS IN REF A, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS NOT
"TAKING" ALL 70 REFUGEES WHO HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY THE
"MIRANDA." THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE
THAT THE REFUGEES SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE CONSIDERED
FOR ADMISSION BY THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY WISH TO
GO-- WHICH IS WHY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE 17
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WHO ASKED TO COME TO FRANCE. WHEN THE REFUGEES ARRIVE,
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL TURN THEM OVER TO THE RED
CROSS AND TO THE UNHCR; ONLY THE 17 WHO HAVE CHOSEN
FRANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT
AND WILL ENTER THE FRENCH REFUGEE SYSTEM. SINCE 30 ARE
EXPECTED ON SATURDAY, 24 SEPT, THE GOF BELIEVES THAT
WITHIN THIS GROUP THERE WILL BE A NUMBER WHO WISH TO GO

TO THE US AND IT HOPES TO PROVIDE US WITH A LIST OF THEM PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

2. THE FRENCH HAVE EMPHASIZED HERE THAT THEY CONSIDER THEIR BRINGING ALL 70 REFUGEES TO FRANCE WAS FORCED ON THEM BY THE INHOSPITABLE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESSURES OF THE SHIPPING COMPANY WHICH WAS LOSING SUBSTANTIAL MONEY WHILE THE MIRANDA WAS IMMOBILIZED. THE GOF DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ITS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE SHOULD JEOPARDIZE THE CHANCES OF A REFUGEE TO GO TO THE COUNTRY TO WHICH HE MAY HAVE THE CLOSEST TIES.

3. THE QUAI AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUING NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE ASIAN COUNTRIES TOWARD INDOCHINA REFUGEES AND THOUGHT THAT INCREASED EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO GET THEM TO ACCEPT THEIR FELLOW ASIANS. THEY THOUGHT IT PARTICULARLY SHOCKING THAT KOREA, WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE VIETNAM WAR AND HAD BEEN HELPED BY THE FRENCH AND OTHERS TO GET THEIR OWN NATIONALS OUT OF VIETNAM, SHOULD BE SO LACKING IN UNDERSTANDING. IN ADDITION, THE FRENCH THOUGHT THAT THE ROK, VULNERABLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER GROUNDS, WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ALIENATING FRANCE AND THE US, ON WHICH KOREA DEPENDS FOR HELP IN THE UNGA, FOR EXAMPLE.

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4. COMMENT: SUCH INFORMATION AS WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE CONCERNING IPP-77, THE NEW PAROLE PROGRAM, UNFORTUNATELY LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT WE MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE A VERY ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO THE GOF CONCERNING THE 53 REFUGEES ON THE MIRANDA WHO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO GO TO THE US. HOWEVER, AS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH HAS TAKEN A LARGER SHARE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PER CAPITA THAN THE US, FRANCE CONSIDERS ITSELF ENTITLED TO EXPECT THE US TO HELP WORK OUT IN A COOPERATIVE WAY AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE MIRANDA CASE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS OR INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE HANDLING OF THESE CASES TO ASSIST US IN THE CONTACTS WE SHALL HAVE WITH THE QUAI BEFORE SATURDAY.
HARLAN

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